

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated June 7, 2004. This amendment is accompanied by a Request for a One-Month Extension of Time and the appropriate fee for the Extension of Time. At the time of the Final Office Action, claims 1-9 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,905 to Leigh (hereinafter "Leigh"). Leigh discloses a PC system which uses two different kinds of terminals both of which having different architecture from a traditional PC. A first kind of terminal receives and transmits high resolution information based on a relatively low resolution transmission link. A second kind of terminal device receives and transmits low bandwidth information, communicating with the PC or another terminal device within a network.

Amended claims 1 and 6 recite a modular control unit for a control panel for video apparatus. The control unit includes at least an operating module and a control module. The operating module includes a parallel-in-serial-out shift register (SR) for receiving parallel data representing a status of the operating module and serially outputting the data. The shift register is clocked by the control module via the interface. Leigh fails to disclose the recited shift register. In particular, the Examiner has asserted that Leigh's PC (100) is equivalent to Applicant's operating module (31) and that Leigh's External device (150) is equivalent to Applicant's control module (32). Leigh's PC (100) does not include the claimed parallel-in-serial-out shift register (SR). Moreover, Leigh provides no teaching of the External device (150) clocking any components contained in the PC (100).

New claim 10 has been added to recite further aspects of Applicant's invention which Applicant believes are novel and unobvious. In particular, claim 10 recites that the operating module (31) comprises a plurality of keys, each of said plurality of keys (33) having a liquid crystal display. Leigh's PC (100) does not include such keys.

Respectfully submitted,
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